

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 19

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTON GRAY (Sponsor), PACE, McGEORGHEGAN,  
HUGHES, SMITH (71) AND BROWN (50) (Co-sponsors).

4916L.011

2       **WHEREAS**, sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects red blood cells.  
3 People with sickle cell disease have red blood cells that contain an abnormal type of hemoglobin;  
4 and

5       **WHEREAS**, normal red blood cells contain hemoglobin A. Hemoglobin S and  
6 hemoglobin C are abnormal types of hemoglobin; and

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8       **WHEREAS**, red blood cells containing mostly hemoglobin S do not live as long as  
9 normal red blood cells and have difficulty passing through the body's small vessels. These  
10 hemoglobin S red blood cells can block small blood vessels, resulting in tissue damage due to  
11 less blood reaching that portion of the body; and

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13       **WHEREAS**, sickle cell trait is an inherited condition in which both hemoglobin A and  
14 S are produced in the red blood cells, always more A than S. Sickle cell trait is not a type of  
15 sickle cell disease; and

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17       **WHEREAS**, sickle cell conditions are inherited from parents in much the same way as  
18 blood type, hair color and texture, eye color and other physical traits. The types of hemoglobin  
19 a person makes in the red blood cells depend upon what hemoglobin genes the person inherits  
20 from his or her parents; and

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22       **WHEREAS**, since sickle cell conditions are inherited from parents, it is important for  
23 people to be aware if they are a carrier before having children; and

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25       **WHEREAS**, more than 80,000 people in the United States have sickle cell disease,  
26 affecting mostly persons of African heritage according to the National Institute of Health.  
27 Currently, there is no universal cure for sickle cell disease; and

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29           **WHEREAS**, sickle cell disease results in a shortened life expectancy, with the average  
30 life expectancy being 42 years for men and 48 years for women; and

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32           **WHEREAS**, based on the population of 5 million in the State of Missouri, 600,000 are  
33 African American. 1 out of 400 suffers with sickle cell conditions and 1 out of 12 has the sickle  
34 cell trait; and

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36           **WHEREAS**, with these estimated numbers, there are approximately 1,500 individuals  
37 with sickle cell conditions and 50,000 individuals with sickle cell trait in the State of Missouri;  
38 and

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40           **WHEREAS**, approximately 700 children, adolescents, and young adults with sickle cell  
41 disease reside in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. However, less than 25% of this sickle cell  
42 population will graduate from high school or seek higher education; and

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44           **WHEREAS**, health maintenance for persons with sickle cell disease starts with early  
45 diagnosis, preferably when a newborn; and

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47           **WHEREAS**, treatment of complications often includes antibiotics, pain management,  
48 intravenous fluids, blood transfusions, and surgery in combination with psychosocial support;  
49 and

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51           **WHEREAS**, there are promising new treatments being developed which can prevent red  
52 blood cells from sickling without causing harm to other parts of the body, reduce the frequency  
53 of severe pain, acute chest syndrome, and the need for blood transfusions, and provide options  
54 to eliminate iron overload caused by repeated blood transfusions; and

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56           **WHEREAS**, public awareness about sickle cell trait and disease and the numerous  
57 programs and screening available is vital to reduce to pervasiveness of sickle cell conditions:

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59           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
60 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
61 concurring therein, hereby designate the week of May 13 - 19, 2012, as "Sickle Cell Awareness  
62 Week" in Missouri; and

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64           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly encourages and urges all  
65 citizens of this state to participate in activities during Sickle Cell Awareness Week to address  
66 the pervasiveness of sickle cell trait and disease and the need to increase public awareness of the  
67 available programs and screenings.

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